

What is a Pollution Control Project?

A Pollution Control Project (PCP) is a project that reduces air pollutants by either changing the process or by using lower polluting raw materials, provided the production capacity of the equipment is not increased. In order to qualify for a PCP exemption, a source must receive an order of approval from Ecology and demonstrate to Ecology's satisfaction that the PCP passes two tests:

- 1) “Environmentally beneficial test” – the environmental benefit from emission reductions must outweigh the detrimental effects of any associated emission increases.
- 2) “Air quality analysis” – the emissions increases from the project must not (a) cause or contribute to a violation of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or Prevention of Significant Deterioration increments, or (b) adversely impact an air quality-related value (such as visibility) that a Federal Land Manager has identified for a Federal Class I area, and for which information is available to the general public.

Since this is an exemption from Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permitting, the PCP can only be processed by the Department of Ecology. This exemption does not extend to the state law; therefore, a minor Notice of Construction (NOC) permit will still be required.

Pollution Control Project exemptions are not available at this time. The federal Pollution Control Project regulations were vacated by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on June 24, 2005.